NBII Digital Image Library
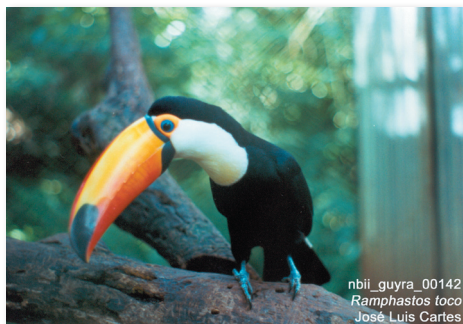
Bringing your images to a worldwide audience…

The National Biological Information Infrastructure (NBII) Digital Image Library <http://images.nbii.gov> makes available online images related to nature and the environment from NBII's own collections and from contributing partners. The library contains well-documented images associated with plant and animal species, landscapes, wildlife management, and biological study/fieldwork. The library continues to expand as new images are added – we invite you to use and participate in this online resource.

The Value of the Image Library

The mission of NBII's digital image library is to provide a diverse range of biological images – offering a rich, Web-based resource of high-quality images to scientists, conservationists, decision-makers, educators, students and the general public worldwide. We envision most images being freely available in the public domain.

Most images can be downloaded in three file sizes: thumbnail, medium, and high-resolutions. The NBII also requires that each image be dynamically linked to *metadata* – specific information about the image – thus increasing its usefulness to a broader audience. Well-documented images are key to recording and understanding the natural environment. Each image's metadata record contains validated information, such as scientific and common names, descriptions, and geographic location as well as photographer and contributing partner names. With this information, images can be used to:

nbii_guyra_00142
Ramphastos toco
José Luis Cartes
Photo Credit: José Luis Cartes/Guyra Paraguay/NBII

Toco Toucan (Ramphastos toco)
Paraguay

Photo Credit: John Mosesso, Jr./NBII

Bullfrog (Rana catesbeiana)
Virginia, United States

Photo Credit: John Mosesso, Jr./NBII

Ox-eye Daisy (Leucanthemum vulgare)
Alaska, United States

nbii_guyra_01393
Myrmecophaga tridactyla
Fernando González Parini
Photo Credit: Fernando González Parini/Guyra Paraguay/NBII

Giant Anteater (Myrmecophaga tridactyla)
Camino a Bahia Negra, Paraguay

- Aid identification,
- Complement museum specimens by showing colors of parts that fade in collections,
- Illustrate lessons, scientific papers, news articles, Web sites, presentations, proposals, brochures, reports, and posters,
- Provide a baseline for changing conditions when georeferenced, and
- Facilitate decisions about the environment and its resources.

Benefits to Contributing Partners

Because of the electronic information attached to an image, other potential users conducting a search of the library can locate images on the wildlife and ecological issues that you have contributed. Your organization's name, and the photographer, are linked to the image, thus providing exposure to a wider audience. Some other benefits to contributors include:
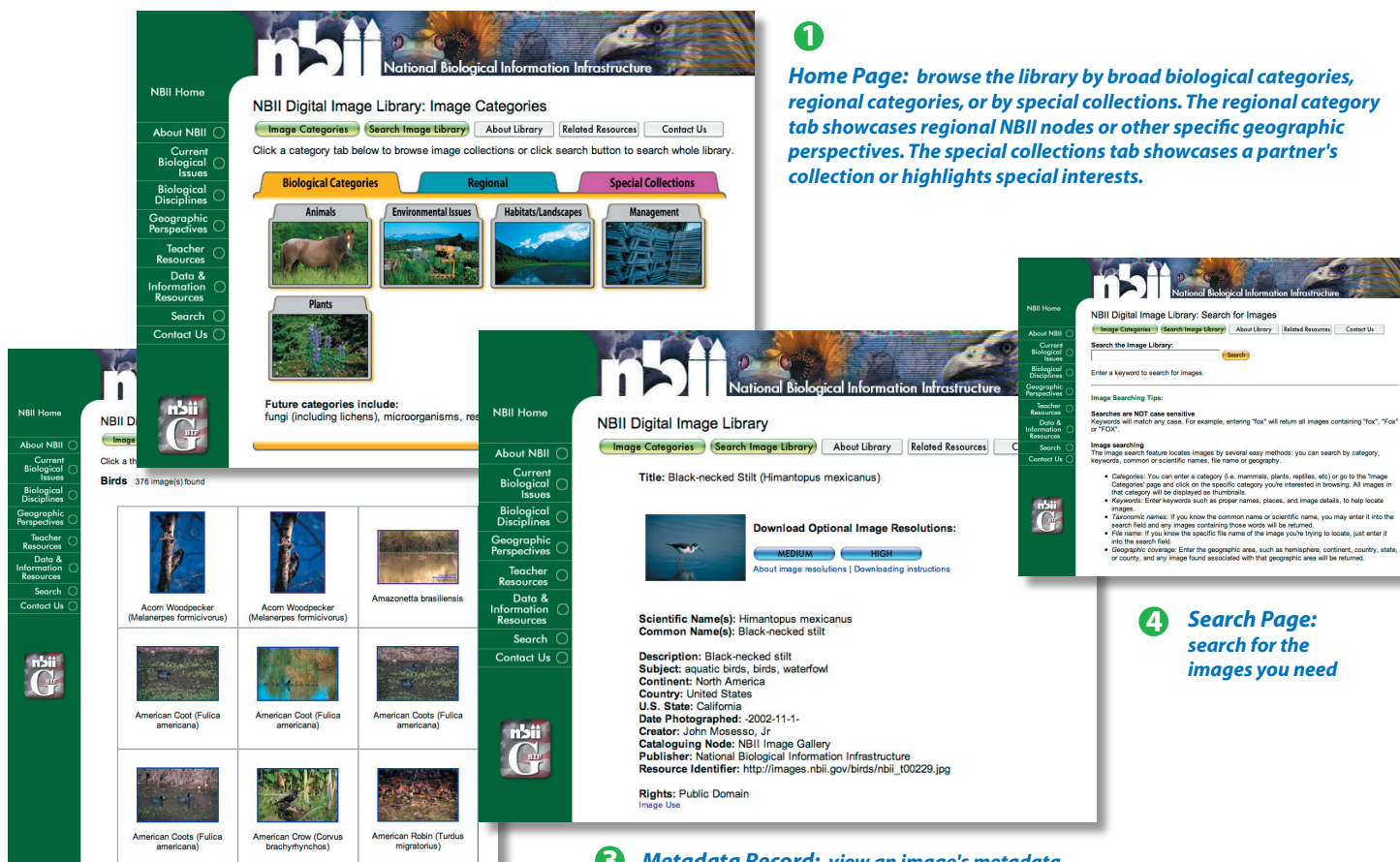
- A repository for contributors to transfer and organize their images, which can then be accessed online,
- Ease of location and sharing of images,
- Secure, long-term storage,
- Elimination of image degradation,
- Reliable Internet service,
- A robust search tool,
- Access to a broader audience,
- Strict quality control,
- Retaining of image rights and permissions,
- Capacity building for your organization,
- Training in cataloging concepts and tools,
- Images based on global standards, and
- Technical support to help transfer images and metadata.

How the Image Library Works

Image seekers may browse through our broad categories or search for specific images contained in the library (see graphics above). By clicking on an image category you gain access to all the thumbnails within that category. Then by clicking on an individual thumbnail image, its metadata record and links to other resolutions appear on a new page.

Image and Metadata Standards

As a general rule, images are digitized at the highest resolution appropriate to achieve the level of quality and the long-term preservation of the library collection. The NBII has developed guidelines that are based on current global standards and technologies. Digitalization quality, image resolutions, and systematic file-naming are all important for system compatibility, interoperability, and demonstrating ownership of the digital asset.

Image metadata follow established guidelines based on the Dublin Core metadata standard. Contributors are responsible for providing images with the appropriate validated metadata in the NBII schema.

Image and metadata standards for the Image Library are outlined in detail in the *NBII Digital Image Library Guide*. The NBII has also developed an electronic tool for cataloging information for images and can provide nodes and partners the necessary training. We also provide tools and resources to upload, host, and search images. We are working to add multilingual functionality to our tools as well.

About the NBII

The NBII <www.nbii.gov> is an electronic information network that provides access to biological data and information on our nation's plants, animals, and ecosystems. Data and information maintained by federal, state, and local government agencies; non-government organizations; and private-sector organizations are linked through the NBII gateway and made accessible to a variety of audiences including researchers, natural resource managers, decision-makers, educators, students, and other citizens.

For More Information

For more information about the NBII Digital Image Library or to explore image project opportunities, contact the Digital Image Library Coordinators:

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Find us on the Web at:
<http://images.nbii.gov>.